

All Around Pennsauken

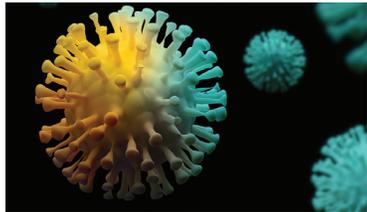


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December 2020

Coronavirus Numbers Growing At Alarming Rate



By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

New Jersey finds itself in the midst of the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak, with an increase in new cases occurring at higher rate than when the virus first hit in March. And its impact has been felt in Pennsauken.

"Cases of the coronavirus continue to rise at alarming rates. To date, over 1,800 residents have contracted the virus since March; and 30 families in Pennsauken are mourning the loss of a loved one. There is a lot of COVID fatigue right now; as we've been fighting to slow the spread of this virus for over eight months, it's understandable. But we have to press on," said Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion. "The only way to lessen the impact of the coronavirus is to limit our risk of exposure. Wash your hands. Maintain social distancing. Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. We have sacrificed a lot. We need to keep doing so. It's the only way to keep ourselves, our families, and our neighbors safe."

New Guidance For State Travel Advisory

Prior to Thanksgiving, Governor Murphy
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Angel Tree Program More Important Than Ever

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

For months, the coronavirus outbreak has turned the lives of many Pennsauken residents upside down. From sick family members to lost jobs, a helping hand is needed now more than ever. It's with this sense of urgency that the Township has launched its Angel Tree Program for 2020.

"The Angel Tree makes a real difference for Pennsauken families in need, but we really need help from our community this year," explained Elwood "Duke" Martz, Pennsauken's director of municipal services. "Because of COVID-19, more residents are reaching out for help. We're really relying on Pennsauken's generosity, so that children, who were going to wake up on Christmas morning without any presents, will be able to open gifts from



Each year, residents donate new, unwrapped toys to Pennsauken's Angel Tree Program, helping their neighbors in need during the holidays.

under the tree."

The Angel Tree was started well over 25 years ago. A Christmas tree placed at the Penn Queen Diner allowed both patrons

and members of the community to help their neighbors in need during the holidays. The success of that endeavor turned

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Township Works To Bring Some Holiday Joy To Residents



Starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, Santa Claus, escorted by the Pennsauken Fire Department, will visit every neighborhood in Pennsauken in a single day.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

This year's celebration of the holidays in Pennsauken looks significantly different than in 2019. But Township Committee is determined to create opportunities for residents to capture some of the joy that the season brings.

"With all that's going on, Township Committee wanted to still offer events that our families can enjoy during the holidays," said Deputy Mayor Marco DiBattista. "We've definitely thought outside the box to help residents create special moments in spite of all the things that 2020 is throwing at us."

Virtual Tree Lighting And Holiday Light Display

On Friday, Dec. 4, the Township will hold a virtual tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, residents will be able to drive through a holiday light display at the Township's Municipal Building Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd.

"We got in touch with Santa Claus at the North Pole. He's got some time to come down to Pennsauken on Dec. 4 to help us light the Township's tree for the holidays," explained DiBattista. "Saint Nick, Mrs. Claus, and some of their friends will be able to stay and greet residents via social distancing as they drive around our

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Look! inside

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Veterans
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Pennsauken Holds Fourth Annual Holiday Lights Contest

Pennsauken Township would like to recognize the very best in holiday decorations throughout town. As you get ready to do your best Clark Griswold impersonations, there could be a reward for your efforts this year!

A team of light seekers will be dispatched in their Rudolph-drawn sleighs

to locate the most impressive expressions of Christmas spirit the town has to offer. To have your decorated home considered for this year's contest, complete the online form located at the Township's website, www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/holiday-light-contest, by Monday, Dec. 14, and your home will be added to the list.

Official judging will occur between the hours of 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Dec. 16 and 17. Each judging team will perform "street view" evaluations of your home for creativity, holiday spirit, and general appeal. If you don't have the brightest house in town, don't worry; all types of décor will be considered, from nostalgic to Griswold or religious to detailed. All entries are welcome. A first, second, and third place winner will be chosen, as well as up to three runners up; these homes will be recognized during Facebook Live videos right before Christmas. All houses considered for this competition will be in-



Pennsauken Township is holding its fourth annual holiday lights contest. To submit your home for consideration, an easy-to-use online form is available at twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

cluded in an interactive online map so that residents can enjoy the local light displays.

Help spread the holiday spirit throughout our neighborhoods by decorating your home or visiting those who do, rewarding the efforts of the many Griswolds among us!



Important Numbers

Pennsauken Township Municipal Building:
(856) 665-1000

Clerk: x122, 123 or 124

Construction: x130, 131, or 132

Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171

Economic Development: x108

Housing/Resale/Rental: x145

Mayor's Office: x152 or 155

Parks and Recreation: x151

Planning and Zoning: x128

Senior Services: x125

Tax Assessor: x112 or 116

Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

Pennsauken Country Club:
(856) 662-4961

Pennsauken Free Public Library:
(856) 665-5959

Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau:
(856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court:
(856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control:
(856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter:
(856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:
(856) 665-8787

**Merchantville-Pennsauken
Water Commission**
(856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority:
(856) 663-5542

**South Jersey Sanitation
(Trash/Recycling Vendor):**
(609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services:
(856) 225-8800

**Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
(CCMUA):** (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:
(800) 272-1325

Great Places To Grab Sweets And Desserts

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Whether you're headed to Pennsylvania and some homemade pumpkin pie, or have visions of sugarplums dancing in your head, you can't have the holidays without the sweets. There are some local establishments that can provide some serious help in the dessert department.

At the iconic Penn Queen Diner, located at 7349 North Crescent Blvd., all baking is done right there on the premises on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can order a variety of cheesecakes, pies, cakes, sheet cakes, and other desserts. For more info or to place an order, give a call at (856) 662-1928. You can also visit PennQueenDiner.com/bakery for ideas.

The Pennsauken-based food truck Dan's Waffles always offers some unique items for the holidays, including their delicious waffles, special bread puddings, and more. They will also be selling their famous triple coconut cream pies, featured on Food Network's "The Best Thing I Ever Ate." To place your order, call (856) 566-6650 or contact them through Facebook Messenger at "Dan's Waffles."

New to Pennsauken's holiday sweets scene is Miguelina's Bakery, located at 4928 Westfield Ave. They specialize in cakes and pastries inspired by Dominican culture. You can find the bakery on both Facebook and Instagram; and for more information, call (856) 338-0228.

More than two billion candy canes are produced during the Christmas season; some of the best, homemade candy canes are found at the legendary Aunt Charlotte's, located at 5 West Maple Ave. in Merchantville. Shopping at Aunt Charlotte's during the holidays is a tried and true local tradition, as the store is decked with a lot more than boughs of holly. Customer favorites include chocolate covered pretzels, which fly off the shelves this time of year; non pareils, in red and green for the Christmas season; caramel and cashew crabs, made of caramel with cashews or peanuts; and sandwich mints, an Aunt Charlotte's exclusive. If someone on your list has a sweet tooth, this is the place to go. Call (856) 662-0058 for more information or visit AuntCharlottesCandy.com.

O' Christmas Tree...

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

A lot of family traditions include getting a live Christmas tree. And you can definitely find them right here in town.

This time of year, a lot of brick and mortar establishments branch out to sell a variety of live Christmas trees. Such businesses include A&J Landscape Supply and Garden Center, 2955 Haddonfield Rd., (856) 356-2083; as well as the Mower Shop, 7745 Maple Ave, (856) 662-8880.

Penn Florist, 5451 Rt. 38, (856) 662-0088, couldn't get trees in this year, but they're still offering gorgeous flower arrangements – perfect for your holiday table – and more. Harris Bouquet, 7616

Maple Ave., (856) 662-6553, doesn't have trees either, but what they do have are a lot of wonderfully decorated mixed greenery wreaths and poinsettia for sale.

Christmas tree lots are also open for business. Every year in town, you'll find one on Cove Rd., right by Inglesby and Sons Funeral Home, as well as on Rt. 130 South, by the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Prices vary from place to place, but trees usually start around \$50 or so and work their way up, depending on size and type. Be sure to do your homework, and you'll find the best tree for your need and budget right here in Pennsauken.

Pennsauken Television To Feature Holiday Programming

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken Television will once again be offering special programming for the holidays.

"It's a great time of year to provide some seasonal programming for residents," explains Ryan Wachter, township director of Pennsauken Television. "In addition to highlighting holiday parades, tree lightings, and breakfasts with Santa from years past, we'll be showing movies that range from holiday classics to true guilty pleasures"

Featured movies include the cartoon, "Santa and the Three Bears," 1935's

"Scrooge," and the classic B-Movie disaster, "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians." Each film is in the public domain.

Holiday movies will run on Sundays in December, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Video recaps of Township holiday events will run throughout the month. In addition, Pennsauken Television's holiday programming will run throughout the day on both Dec. 24 and 25.

Pennsauken Television can be found on Channel 19 for XFINITY customers and Channel 21 on Fios. For more details visit "Pennsauken Television" on Facebook.



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MAYOR'S Looking Back At A Year Of Firsts In Pennsauken

RECORDED



By Tim Killion,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

That cold January evening when I took the oath of office as Pennsauken's mayor seems so very long ago; and yet, so much has happened in 2020 – many of it firsts for myself and our community – that the time has flown by.

This was my first term as mayor of Pennsauken. Soon after being sworn in, our administration met our first – and greatest – challenge of the year: dealing with the coronavirus, a pandemic we'd yet to see in our lifetimes. We closed our Municipal Building to the public and made significant adjustments to our services. It was quite an adjustment for everyone; and we're still making changes

as the situation dictates. Our goal throughout this entire process was to be as open and transparent as possible, so we began a series of videos and letters to provide crucial updates via social media. We shared both the good and the bad; and at the end of the day, we hope it benefitted our residents.

Township Committee meetings were held via Zoom for the first time. They have been very well received, with a noticeable increase in participation. Moving forward, we'll have to see how we can incorporate their use when in-person meetings resume.

There were definitely some perks to the job this year. I officiated not only my first in-person wedding, but my first virtual one as well. Celebrating the love and commitment of our residents is certainly something I'll remember fondly as Pennsauken's mayor for 2020. Socially

distant ribbon cuttings were also pretty interesting. It's great to see new businesses coming into town; and you could definitely tell that there were plenty of smiles behind the masks of entrepreneurs who made the decision to call our town home.

We had an opportunity in 2020 to spark conversations that initiate change. In response to the tragic death of George Floyd, I was proud to join Chief Nettleton, members of the Pennsauken Police, and Township Committee, to walk with residents during the first ever 'Sauken in Solidarity/Black Lives Matter March and Vigil. This powerful moment was a collaborative effort; we followed the lead of students from our high school and our residents that allowed our community to rally around an extremely important cause.

It was also my somber responsibility

to represent our town as the Pennsauken community said goodbye to Rick Taylor, a man who was larger than life and meant so much to each and every one of us. And every time I've had to announce a new COVID-19 related death, my heart breaks for the families that are grieving.

But overall, the most momentous first I experienced in 2020 is a personal one: the birth of my daughter, Ashlyn. Bridget, Aiden, and I are constantly amazed with how she's enhanced our lives. It's something we'll cherish forever and look forward to watching her grow up in our Township.

Pennsauken will experience many more firsts in 2021. We have two members of Committee who are moving on. Al Dyer is the newest member of the Camden County Commissioners, formerly the Freeholders. We wish him much luck and

success in his new role; there's no doubt he'll represent Pennsauken well. Betsy McBride is stepping down after nine years of dedicated service to our Township. We thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well in all of her future endeavors. We will also have two new members of Township Committee. Vince Martinez will be sworn in next month for a three-year term. We look forward to working with both him and whoever will be replacing Al. Pennsauken will also swear in a brand new mayor, who will be serving in this capacity for the first time. We'll be ready to support him or her as we all work together to make our town a great place to work and live.

On behalf of Township Committee and our entire municipal staff, as well as Bridget, Aiden, Ashlyn, and Flyer, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season. Be well and stay safe.

WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS A SAFE & JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Pennsauken – Pennbrook

Check Out This Fully Renovated Colonial In Beautiful Pennbrook. Home Features FOUR Bedrooms 2 Full And 2 Half Baths. Gorgeous Kitchen With Granite Countertops. There Is Also A Full Finished Basement With Wet Bar. This House Has Been Fully Renovated With All High End Finishes. Come Check It Out! \$289,900



Audubon – Great Investment Property!!!

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Pennsauken – Reduced Triplex

Spacious triplex with three car detached garage and tons of parking. All units include washer, dryer, refrigerator. All have separate hot water heaters, heaters and electrical panels located in a clean basement. Roof 17 years old. One unit has central air and a gas fireplace. 2 units have lovely patios. Close to public transportation and shopping. \$259,900



Pennsauken – Just Listed

Beautiful Chadwyck II bi-level on a large fence in yard. New carpets in the living room with cathedral ceiling, dining room, and family room. The kitchen has beautiful cherry wood kitchen cabinets, dish washer, range and new floor. The family room on the lower level has a brick fire place. There is an inground sprinkler system. There is an upper level deck off the kitchen. This home is in move in condition. All for \$250,000



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Pennsauken – REDUCED For Quick Sale

Beautiful Maple Ave in Pennsauken, right on the Merchantville Border. This three bedroom and one full bath brick twin home features a formal living room, a spacious dining room, a large eat in kitchen with gas stove, dishwasher, refrigerator, and microwave! There is also a laundry room with washer and dryer included. Upstairs features three good size bedrooms and a beautiful and updated full bath! Large front porch, basement and a garage. This home has a lot to offer and is being sold in its as-is condition ... Buyer responsible for any repairs and the Township CO. ... And Investors welcome as not much left to finish making this home a showcase \$129,900



Cherry Hill – Sprawling Rancher

Location Location Location!!! One floor living. Large custom rancher close to everything in Cherry Hill. Walking distance to everything, close to Philly, school and shopping. Home does need some updating but the possibilities are limitless. Great layout. 3 bedrooms, Large master with bath and sliding glass doors out to the deck. beautiful Florida room off of the living room, high ceilings in living room. Half of the garage was made into another room could be used for storage, kids playroom, office, whatever you can think of or converted back to full garage. \$264,900



Pennsauken – Wonderful Schoolhouse Condo

Second Floor Two Bedroom Condo now Available in the Schoolhouse Condos of Collins Tract! This very nice condo features a spacious Living Room, Spacious Eat in Kitchen with stainless refrigerator and gas stove, dishwasher and large pantry. Additional amenities include two good size bedrooms, foyer with lots of closet space, large windows for plenty of light, newer HVAC (2015) and hot water heater (2016), washer and dryer in the unit too! Interior pictures and details on the way. \$89,900



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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideas. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget from all that is done to me and You who are all the instincts of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue wish to Thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great materials desires may be. I want to be You and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. AMEN.

Thank You for Your love towards me and my loved ones. Pray this prayer for three consecutive days without asking for your wish. After the third day, your wish will be granted. Promise to publish dialogue as soon as your favor has been granted.

A.L.



WAGSWORLD

Ending A Bizarre Year With Wood Carvings And Christmas Lights

By Bob Wagner, AAP Columnist

I was hoping to make the last column of 2020 a goodbye to the COVID virus and the most bizarre year of my life. This year is right up on my list with the year I spent getting shot at almost daily. But in 1968, I could, at the very least, shoot back.

This season had all of us fighting an unseen enemy that could kill us just as dead as bullets, but delivered by about anyone we came in contact with. I am reminded of an old Pogo cartoon which stated "I have seen the enemy, and it is us."

Perhaps the best Christmas present any of us can wish for is a good vaccine and the end to this pandemic. A return to the normal old boring day-to-day where we meet, greet, and hug again. Just being out and about friends and strangers, talking to folks without masks, would be a gift beyond compare.

County Begins Roadwork On Haddonfield Road

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, Camden County began roadwork on Pennsauken Township's portion of Haddonfield Rd. The project, which extends from the Rt. 90 ramp to Maple Ave., constitutes an almost \$2 million infrastructure investment.

Initially, crews will focus on constructing curbs, driveways, and ADA ramps through the end of the year. The scope of work also includes the installation of inlets and storm water pipe, as well as guide rails; concrete roadway construction; milling and resurfacing of the road-

way; and putting in traffic striping, signs, and raised pavement markers. Most of the work on Haddonfield Rd. will involve the closure of a single lane during working hours. The project is estimated to take 250 calendar days to complete.

For more information, contact Jeremy Noll, PE, construction manager, Environmental Resolutions at (856) 235-7170; and/or Vibhuti Bhimani, senior engineer, Camden County Division of Engineering at (856) 566-2938.

I am prepping for this holiday by carving and knocking out decorations. I put a reindeer on my lawn just yesterday. Today, I'm attempting a Christmas pig, just to make the bride a tad crazy. I wish I had a bigger lawn. But I can expand my work to the children's yards when they are at work. And I may put a few more strange carvings up in friends' yards.

Besides wood carvings, I'm attempting new Christmas stars, and am searching out where I stashed my supply of light strings.

I believe this Christmas season calls for more lights than any before. I urge all of you to light up the night brighter than any year you remember. There is nothing like looking out the front door and seeing colorful, sparkling lights up and down the street to make us feel like we are in this together.

Light up your doors and windows.

Wrap the yard trees, bushes, and lawn furniture. Give the old COVID virus a well lit raised finger. And, if we all participate in some small way, the feeling of being in it together is a worthy project.

So, speaking of projects, I am off to the building to create more STUFF. After the Christmas pig for the bride, I need a new star to hang in the tree. Then, if I have any energy left, I will whip a new batch of reindeer for the kids' front lawns. Tomorrow it's supposed to rain, so I will be painting down the basement, touching up the batch of Santas and snowmen I carved on the long fishing trip. The less said about that trip, the better. Just know fishing isn't always about catching. But, if it wasn't for the seafood store, I'd be eating hot dogs all winter.

To all my friends, family, and fellow readers, I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas!

PENNSAUKEN DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

December's public meetings are being held remotely via Zoom. Details on how the public can participate can be found on twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Township Committee
Dec. 3 and 17, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment
Dec. 2 and 16, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board
Dec. 1 and 22, 6:30 p.m.



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Eagle Scout Project Upgrades Benches At Pennsauken's Liberty Park

Anthony "A.J." Marinelli, Pennsauken resident and member of Boy Scout Troop 118, completed his Eagle Scout project last month, upgrading the four wooden benches at the Veterans Memorial at Liberty Park.

"We removed all the old wood from the benches and cleaned and spray painted the frames. We gave them a fresh new look," explained Marinelli. "We installed cumaru hard wood from Brazil, which should last on these benches longer than I'll be around."

Eagle Scout projects serve two purposes. Not only are they a tangible way to give back to the community in which a Scout lives, but also are the culmination of a journey that for Marinelli, started way back in kindergarten.

"I've been through Scouting ever since I was a K-Cub," said Marinelli. "Scouting has been a large part of my life

and I've benefited from it, so I want to finish it and go all the way through."

According to the Boy Scouts of America's website, the rank of Eagle Scout, first created in 1912, "has represented a milestone of accomplishment—perhaps without equal—that is recognized across the country and even the world. Those who have earned the Eagle Scout rank count it among their most treasured achievements." Scouts must complete a variety of requirements before their 18th birthday, including being an active participant in Scouting; completing specific merit badges; taking on a leadership role in their Troop; as well as developing, organizing, and leading a service project. Jim Gibson, scout master for Troop 118, reflected on Marinelli's efforts to become an Eagle Scout.

"The project is perfect. It's not overwhelming and A.J.'s lead all the Scouts here

in building these benches. It's something great for the community that people will see for years to come," said Gibson. "That's why we have Eagle Scout projects to begin with. He's really come a long way."

Marinelli thanked his fellow Scouts, Seamus Blessinger, Jimmy Garaguso, Ethan Harbold, Gio Marinelli, and Liam Semmler, for their invaluable help at

Liberty Park. Special thanks to Morton's Paint Center in Pennsauken, Schwering's Hardware in Palmyra, and BDF Industrial Fasteners in Camden for their donations; as well as general contractor Mike Ciarrocca, Eagle Scout and mentor, for his guidance. There were also countless family and friends who provided financial support for the project.

Troop 118 is currently taking applications for new Scouts for young people between grades 6-12. Scouting offers many benefits, including developing character, promoting positive values, learning important life lessons, and more. To learn how your child can participate in Scouting, call Jim Gibson at (609) 876-9587 or email troop3118@gmail.com.



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Anthony "A.J." Marinelli of Pennsauken completed his Eagle Scout Project, upgrading the four wooden benches at the Veterans Memorial at Liberty Park in Pennsauken. Pictured here, from left to right: Gio Marinelli, Seamus Blessinger, A.J. Marinelli, and Ethan Harbold.

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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

On behalf of the entire crew of your Public Works Department, I want to begin this article by extending our warmest wishes to our residents, businesses, and their families for the happiest of holidays and a very Happy New Year. During the annual task of putting up the new calendar and filling in all of the birthdays, anniversaries, and other anticipated dates, it gives us the opportunity to set some goals, based upon our experiences of the previous year. What we do is not always glamorous stuff, folks. It is our goal to perform our work with as high of a

Department Of Public Works: A Year In Review

standard as we can achieve. As in most businesses, the end of a calendar year is a time where an organization can look back and evaluate its strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our crews for another year of committed loyalty to our residents through their work.

We all have felt the effect that the coronavirus pandemic has had on daily life; and I wish to acknowledge our diligent team here at the Department of Public Works for pushing through the protocols put in place to keep our work moving, while keeping ourselves and the general public safe. Due to this diligence, we have avoided a widespread shut down of the department, which speaks to the crew's

continued diligence in their personal lives as well. I sincerely hope that all of you stay safe for the remainder of the pandemic. Although 2021 will not begin with us "out of the woods" from COVID-19, we will continue to deal with the uncertainty, as a vaccine becomes available and the year progresses. It is common to wish someone prosperity in the New Year; I sincerely hope that those effected financially or medically can experience this in 2021.

Public Works is still encouraging residents to interact with our office via phone, email or Facebook messenger to keep person-to-person interactions at a minimum. We are still delivering recycling buckets to those in need of a replacement or new residents. Due to an increase in takeout meals, as well as more meals being consumed at home during shut-downs, remote learning, and employment issues, we have seen an increase in household garbage being placed at the curb. We ask for your continued diligence to properly bag your trash to keep critters away as we head into the colder months.

Reducing Plastic Bags In Recycling

Looking over our "No Plastic Bag" initiative, beginning back in August of 2019, we have seen a decrease in the amount of rejected recycling loads. There is still room left for improvement and we will continue our educational outreach into

2021 to eliminate plastic bags from the recycling buckets in Pennsauken. If you notice your neighbor places their recycling in bags, please refer them to this article or to our office. It's incredibly difficult to get the message out there to all residents without going house to house. In early November, we noticed that our contamination numbers grew due to bagged recyclables and we blitzed the routes with red tags to prevent the collection of the contaminated recycling. The current recycling contract requires less than 8 percent contamination per truck load and we're trying to get below that number. If we do not, the cost of recycling to our taxpayers will skyrocket in the next contract. By getting our numbers down now together, we can all help to reduce the impact that this will have on local taxes.

No Leaf Left Behind

I would be remiss to not mention that Public Works will continue to pick up large curbside leaf piles until Dec. 31. Those that

bag their leaves can place them at the curb for Wednesday yard debris pickup by South Jersey Sanitation throughout the year. After Jan. 1, we officially switch our equipment over for winter operations and require the bagging of leaves.

Holidays And Trash/Recycling Collection

Both Christmas, Friday, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1, are "trash holidays." See our "Talkin' Trash" section on this page for details. And although I will mention it again in January, live Christmas trees can be placed out on yard debris collection days. The only exception to this is if decorations, lights, tinsel are left on the tree, and/or if the tree is flocked. This means the tree needs to be placed out for trash on your trash day.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the Pennsauken's Department of Public Works, let us know by calling (856) 663-0178 or emailing PublicWorks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

*Wishing all our Friends & Neighbors
the Best Holiday Season
and a Happy, Healthy New Year
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Keep Homes Safe During Holidays With Safety Tips For Decorating

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is issuing safety tips for holiday decorations. Holiday decorations, like candles, lights and Christmas trees, add a joyous and festive mood to the holiday season. But when these decorations are not used properly, they can cause fires, injuries and death.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 15,000 people for falls, cuts, shocks, and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

To prevent these injuries, CPSC monitors holiday lights and other decorations sold at stores and on the Internet. CPSC works with the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to identify and detain unsafe holiday light sets posing fire risks from being distributed in the U.S.

Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of about \$10 million in property damage and loss. In addition, there are more than 13,000 candle-related fires each year, which result in 140 deaths and \$205 million in property loss.

CPSC suggests following these tips to make your holiday a safe one.

TREES

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree is more resistant to burning.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out

rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

LIGHTS

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL. This indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights – this could cause stress on the connections that could create a fire hazard.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against

electric shock. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

CANDLES AND OTHER DECORATIONS

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Keep burning candles within sight.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles out of reach of children and pets.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- To avoid eye and skin irritation, wear gloves when decorating with spun glass "angel hair."
- To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

FIREPLACES

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that, if eaten, can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

For more holiday decoration safety, visit www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/611.pdf.

AARP Tax Preparation Returns In February

Returning this February, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and remote tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and those who have low to moderate income.

More than 36,000 volunteers provide taxpayers in nearly 5,000 communities – including Pennsauken – with free tax preparation and filing services. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic,

Tax-Aide has introduced several options for providing taxpayer assistance. The options for New Jersey are:

Low Contact: Taxpayers interact with IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers in one or two short, in-person meetings to exchange documents, and then meet online or by phone to prepare and file taxes.

Contactless: Taxpayers interact with Tax-Aide's IRS-certified tax counselors online or by phone and exchange documents electronically.

Self-preparation: Tax-Aide provides taxpayers with free access to software so

they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from an IRS-certified counselor to coach them through the process by phone or through computer screen-sharing.

To ensure the safety of the Tax-Aide volunteers and the taxpayers, appointments are required for all tax preparation. To request assistance for self-preparation, a taxpayer must have an email address.

More specific information for Pennsauken and Merchantville taxpayers will be provided in January. AARP Foundation's tax preparation season is from Feb. 1 through April 15.

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Capacity of Church as of 11/30 is 125 people and the School Hall is 100 people.
Please check the parish website on Dec. 24 for updates/any Mass Schedule changes.



SENIORCORNER

Tips For Seniors To Prepare For Winter Weather

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

Winter is right around the corner and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially as we're in the middle of the coronavirus outbreak. If you haven't already, here are some simple steps you can take to be ready for when winter weather arrives:

- Check your heater to make sure that it's running well; also, buy inexpensive heater filters and replace them each month
- Have a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person in the house
- In case of a power outage, have candles, matches, flashlights, and fresh batteries handy

- Have salt and fertilizer to use on steps and walkways to melt icy patches
- Make sure that your cell phone is charged at 100 percent prior to any forecast of winter weather; also, be sure to stay in touch with family and friends so that they know you're okay

If you drive:

- Check your car's battery to make sure that it's working properly
- Have plenty of gas in the tank
- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged and with you while on the road
- Keep items like blankets and flashlights handy in case of an emergency

Wishing you good health and happiness. Have a wonderful holiday season. Please say a prayer for our men and women in the armed services.

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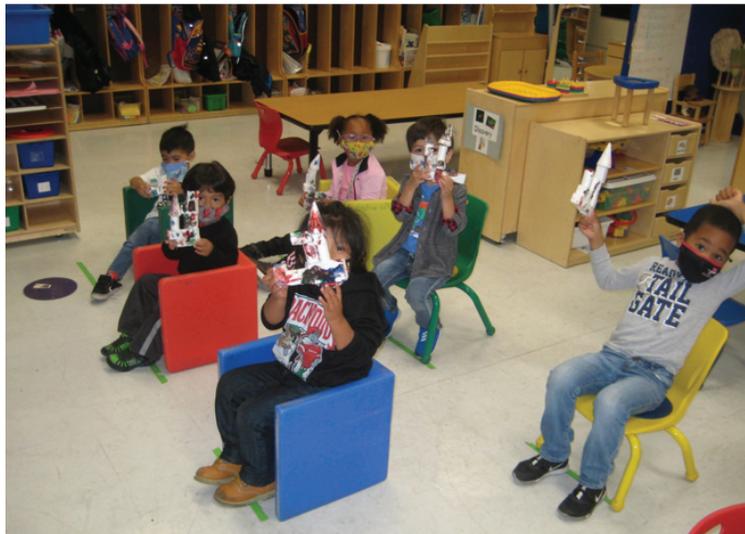
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Studying Buildings At Baldwin



Mrs. Drummonds' class concluded their study of buildings! Each student built their own building with different Styrofoam shapes and toothpicks and then painted them. Students learned about the different parts of a building including roof, door, windows, walls and stairs. What fun!

Remembering Mr. Pierce And Mrs. DeFranco



Phifer teacher Mr. Pierce passed away on Oct. 30.

On Oct. 30, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of coach and educator Chad Pierce, who had dutifully serviced the children of the Pennsauken School District since 1999.

Mr. Pierce taught eighth grade civics and economics at Phifer Middle School. He was also a football and track coach for the District.

"Chad has always shown kindness, compassion, and empathy to all he has come in contact with over his illustrious career," wrote Dr. Tarchichi, superintendent of Pennsauken Public Schools, in an e-mail to District staff. "If you ask any of Chad's colleagues, fellow coaches, students, or athletes, you would see the positive impact he has had as one of the greats in our profession."

Pierce is survived by his wife, Sheri; children, Hannah and Keisha; his mother,

Karen; and numerous family and friends.

Barbara DeFranco

Mrs. Barbara DeFranco passed away on Nov. 16 at the age of 78. She was a dedicated employee for the Pennsauken School District for 41 years, working first at Franklin Elementary, then Pennsauken High School.

Barbara was the beloved wife of the late Anthony J., Jr. and loving mother of Anthony J., III (Michele) DeFranco,

Denise Slawinski (Richard) and Christine McGinley (Anthony Barone). She is also survived by four loving grandchildren, Vanessa, Joseph, Andrew and Maximilian; three brothers, Robert, Edward, and Paul Sikorski; and two sisters, Janet Schwarz and Cathy Koestel.

Pennsauken Public Schools offer their sincerest condolences to both of Coach Pierce and Mrs. DeFranco's families, friends, and colleagues, as well as current and former students.



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Breast Cancer Awareness Month At Franklin

In honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, staff and students at Franklin Elementary were able to wear pink tops for one day in October with a dollar donation. A and B Day students, remote students and teachers were all able to participate. Thanks to our collection, Franklin donated \$125 to the American Breast Cancer Foundation!

Important Dates

Dec. 17	Pennsauken Board of Education Meeting
Dec. 23	Single Session
Dec. 24-31	CLOSED Winter Vacation
Jan. 1	CLOSED Winter Vacation
Jan. 4	School Reopens



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Traditional Homemade pizza sauce, melted mozzarella cheese, pepperoni or Italian sausage, or a combination of both topped with grated romano cheese	Breakfast Fresh scrambled eggs, shredded hashbrowns, melted cheese and your choice of bacon, sausage, bell peppers or porkroll
Homemade Meatball Atop our homemade gravy with melted provolone cheese and grated romano cheese	Caesar Salad Romaine lettuce, cherry tomato, grated romano cheese and caesar dressing, on top of provolone cheese. (Grilled chicken additional charge)
Cheesesteak Fresh grilled steak, melted american cheese, with option of adding caramelized onion and hot cherry peppers	Margherita Homemade pizza sauce, fresh mozzarella cheese and basil with house grated romano cheese blend



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By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Diane Johnson, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

At November's socially distant meeting of our Board of Education, we took a moment to recognize our superintendent, Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, for his exceptional educational leadership and courage in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing Our Superintendent For His Leadership

Dr. T continues to go above and beyond what is expected of an educational leader throughout these unprecedented times and serves as a pillar of strength and beacon of light to our District.

These accolades certainly were a surprise to our superintendent, particularly when his family joined us as we presented our resolution. And while Dr. T was genuinely appreciative of the gesture, he was quick to mention that it truly is a team effort; that it is only through the hard work and dedication of Pennsauken Public Schools' administrators and staff that are helping our District and our school families get through these many challenges.

In addition, the Pennsauken Board of Education has initiated the "Dr. Tarchichi

Courageous Leadership Award." Presented annually, the Board will recognize groups and/or individuals who inspire with their tenacity through adversity. The first two recipients are Pennsauken High School's Class of 2020 and all Pennsauken School District employees.

When looking for a new superintendent in 2016, we met a young administrator that thoroughly impressed the entire Board of Education. We know that he would lead Pennsauken Public Schools in a new direction of academic growth and success. Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi continues to exceed our expectations.

The Pennsauken Board of Education wishes each and every one of you a happy holiday season and a healthy start to 2021.



The Pennsauken Board of Education recognized Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, seen here with his family, for his ongoing leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Carson First Graders Meet Their School Counselor

In October, Ms. Jefferson introduced herself to Mrs. Mozee's first grade class! She did an interactive dancing activity with the students and shared a presentation on her role at Carson School. Ms. Jefferson also showed the students pictures of her family and asked the students about their families.

Ms. Jefferson encouraged the students to reach out to her if they needed someone to talk to or share their feelings. The students enjoyed the presentation and spending time with her!



Carson's counselor, Ms. Jefferson, meet with Mrs. Mozee's first grade class.

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Learning About Respect At Franklin

October 5-9 was the Week of Respect at Franklin. Each day during morning meetings, students were learning about different ways they can show respect. Mr. J., Ms. Dallas, and Mr. C also headed into the classrooms, both in-person and virtually, for some fun interactive lessons on respect. Through different scenarios, role-playing, and stories, students were taught how to be respectful to themselves, their families, and their communities, as well as here in school.

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www.pennsauken.net

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Find information on our schools
Visit the School Calendar
See Sports Schedules & more!
Read Home & School Newsletter

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



A Year Of Challenges Met Head On

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi,
MEd², M.S., M.B.S., M.A.²,
Ed.D., Superintendent,
Pennsauken Public Schools

Throughout 2020, the Pennsauken School District, our staff, and the families we serve have faced unprecedented challenges because of COVID-19. From a rapid switch to full remote learning last March, to adapting to our hybrid and remote learning in September, it has been a monumental task. But by all working together, we have risen to the occasion.

The Board of Education and I are very proud of our staff. Our administrators, teachers, bus drivers, secretaries, NTAs, EAs, food service workers, tech-

nology associates, security, and all other employees have given us their full effort in a time of confusion and ambiguity. We also very much appreciate the understanding and flexibility of our parents and students, as we have navigated these uncharted waters together.

Both remote and hybrid learning have been very successful for Pennsauken Public Schools. It was and continues to be very important that our school families have a choice of educational options for their children. As long as that decision remains with our District, we will not take that away from you. Our schools are going strong; we are doing what is right for our parents and students.

The Pennsauken School District remains committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff, our students, and our school families. We will not put anyone at risk and we will continue to provide the essential educational and developmental services our students need.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. On behalf of the Board of Education, our amazing District staff, and myself, I wish our school families a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. By working together, we can enter 2021 with renewed focus on the formation and growth of Pennsauken's children.

Fine School Celebrates Respect

During the final two weeks in October, George B. Fine School had fun highlighting the many ways students show respect throughout their day in and out of school.

Throughout the year, we will be showcasing different character traits like respect, trustworthiness, generosity and self control, just to name a few. To make it more fun, students were permitted to wear something each day that represented an aspect of respect.

One day, students were permitted to wear their favorite mask to symbolize their "never masking their respect for each other;" and their favorite sweat-

shirt, because, "it's no sweat being respectful." Other days, they could wear tie-dyed shirts to "keep the peace;" and green on a different day, as a sign of respect for our environment. Overall, students enjoyed wearing things other than their uniform tops to remind them of all the ways respect is alive in their lives.

During their morning meetings, teachers discussed various examples of how students can show their respect on a bus, in the hallway, in the classroom, at home and in the bathrooms. Mini lessons like this give life and help young students understand abstract words like respect. It was a most successful endeavor for all!



Respectful Fine students got to wear tie-dye shirts to remember to "keep the peace."

Fine Halloween Parade Different But Fun

Due to the coronavirus and the cold, rainy weather, Fine's typical Halloween parade had to make some major adjustments. To maintain class distances and safety, the plan for our parade for the atypical 2020 Halloween was to only have one classroom at a time traverse their route within the building hallways. The rain kept everyone indoors and kept parents out because of safety reasons. Despite these restrictions, the Fine faculty still pulled together to make the late afternoon activity fun for all.

While each classroom showed off their colorful, brave and spooky cos-

tumes, classic Halloween tunes piped through the hallways. Students and educators from their classroom thresholds would cheer them on. Smiles abounded on each child as they made their way around the building. Additionally, students played Halloween BINGO online from the classrooms and with the full remote students to wrap up the event!

While they couldn't go outside, Fine students enjoyed having a Halloween parade through the halls.



Dynamic Drummers At Carson



Carson School's hybrid third graders are excitedly learning to play their "beat boards" in Mrs. Test's music class! They are learning to play different rhythm patterns using popular songs. Great job, third graders!

Franklin Enjoys An Exciting Halloween



Staff at Franklin Elementary dressed as their favorite candy for Halloween!

Halloween was very exciting at Franklin! We did not let rain, nor COVID-19 stop our fun!

With the impending rain, we canceled the outdoor parade and planned an indoor one that abided by the rules of so-

cially distancing and walked one grade at a time. We then made a video and each class had an opportunity to see the whole parade! The staff even dressed up as their favorite candy for Halloween! A good time was had by all!

Halloween Is Super Fun At Delair

Delair celebrated a socially distanced and super fun Halloween together! Students and teachers enjoyed a parade around the school with Mrs. Lawrence's favorite upbeat music leading them through the hallway. Our team is unstoppable!



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PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

National Honor Society Holds School Supply Giveaway

Through graduate Toni Deliso, Pennsauken High School's National Honor Society secured a large donation of

school supplies from the Target in Had-don Township. Our students, with the guidance of NHS advisors Mr. Ed Trautz

and Mr. Kevin Yourison, organized and divided 28 crates of supplies into bags for families to pick up at a contactless school supply giveaway for middle and high school students.

On Oct. 29, National Honor Society students set up bags for contactless pickup, giving away about 150 bags full of an assortment of pens and pencils, glue, folders, binders, paper, and some other fun office decor supplies. NHS President Jazcena Gonzalez organized a large volunteer group for the sorting and distribution; and Historian Mulu-nesh Kramer arranged coverage of the event by 6 ABC Action News.

The event was a great connection between alumni and current students, working together to benefit the entire school district!



Pennsauken High School's National Honor Society held a contactless school supply giveaway for middle and high school students.

AS PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION GRANT, WE ARE HOSTING A:

VIRTUAL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

\$15 RAFFLE FOR ATTENDEES

Brought to you by Center for Child and Family Services (SERV Division), we will explore healthy boundary and relationship setting for all ages. Join us to develop the skills to communicate effectively with your children as they navigate understanding the importance of boundaries and social skills to foster healthy, long-lasting peer relationships.

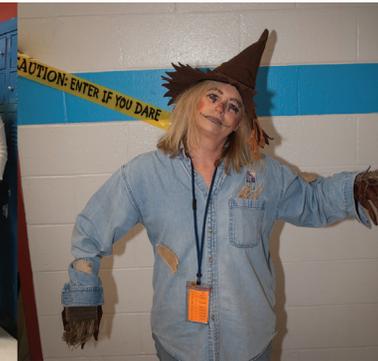
Navigating Social Boundaries and Peer-Relationships with your Children

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Following the presentation - there will be will voluntary, small group sessions with multiple members of the SERV community to answer individual and personalized questions regarding these topics.

DECEMBER 17, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
Visit Pennsauken.net for the Zoom Link
Meeting ID: 942 4931 6916
PASSCODE: TDPZ37



Halloween Fun At Phifer

Halloween 2020 was fun for Phifer's staff this year. The sixth grade staff dressed as one of our favorite candies, M&M's! Phifer's principal, Ms. Allen, participated in the fun and dressed as a scarecrow.

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- Must Pass Drug Test
- Background Check



For More Information call 856-662-8502

CLERKS**CORNER****Application For 2021 Dog Licenses**

By Pam Forman, Acting Township Clerk

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Dogs at this address _____

Dog's Name _____

M/F ___ Dog's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

As of the first Monday in February, all dog license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.

FEES: \$12 if the dog has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

State regulations consider a dog's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog license could result in a court summons.

Woof! Woof! It's Not Too Late For Dog Licenses

By Loverboy,
Faithful Dog
of AAP Editor,
Frank Sinatra

My daddy's letting
me have my own
article this month!

He wanted me to
let you know about dog licenses. I'm a dog.
I have a license. I'm kind of an expert.

According to something you humans call "state law," any dog that lives in Pennsauken, is six months old or older, and has a set of permanent teeth, needs a license. And while it's a little metal tag that we dogs wear around our collar, it's a pretty big deal.

Dog licenses aren't just for keeping track of all the awesome puppies big and small that live in town; they can be used

to help find your favorite four-legged friend if they get out of the backyard.

Dog licenses are just \$12 for a dog that's been spayed or neutered, or \$15 if your pet is "au naturale." That's not too pricey. It's still not too late to get a license for your dog. In fact, you have until the first Monday of February before you'll be charged a \$10 late fee. So don't wait! Your furry kid will thank you for it.

To Give Or Not To Give: Be Sure When Making A Pet A Present

By Nancy Welsh, Pennsauken Township
Animal Control Officer

A new pet can fill a home with love, happiness and excitement, but it also means a lot of work. There are good and bad things to consider before deciding to give a dog or cat as a holiday gift or birthday present. It can be tempting to give a cute, cuddly pet as a gift. Yet, along with the precious purr or the fluffy tail that never stops wagging, there comes a commitment to another life for the next 10, 15, or even 20 years. Unlike most gifts, puppies and kittens cannot be returned. Before you go to the pet store, breeder, or shelter, there are some things you

should consider.

Never give a pet as a surprise. Pets are a wonderful addition to life, yet not everyone has the time, energy or money to care for one. You may think a friend or family member is lonely and the pet will be good company, but you need to know if this is something the person wants and can handle at this time.

Avoid impulsive decisions regarding the addition of a pet. Adding a pet to your home or to someone else's is not something you should do on a whim. This is a decision the whole family should be in on and in agreement about. For example, if

the kids are asking for a dog and parents agree this is a good time, then that could work. Parents should know that no matter how many times the kids promise they will pick up the poop and some of the other not so glamorous duties of taking care of a new pet, the duties often become the responsibility of mom and dad. It is not fair to bring a dog or cat into your home and then turn it into the shelter because the children are not keeping the promises they made.

According to the ASPCA, 3.3 million dogs are taken to animal shelters in the

continued on page 18



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New Jersey, Pennsauken Exceed Expectations For 2020 Census

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

New Jersey's campaign to have residents participate in the 2020 Census came to a close in October. And in spite of the challenges caused by the coronavirus outbreak, residents – both here in Pennsauken and across the state – responded positively to outreach efforts.

"We were extremely pleased with how Pennsauken responded to the 2020 Census," said Township Committee-woman Betsy McBride, who helped to

spearhead local Census efforts. "We are particularly grateful for the work of the Complete Count Committee Chairperson, Ken Diaz. Because of his professionalism, perseverance, and attention to detail, we were able to raise awareness, involve residents across cultures, and increase our census count in a tough year."

Based on data provided by the New Jersey Census 2020 Team, the Garden State had its best self-response rate in 30 years, greater than the 1990, 2000, and

2010 Censuses and 2.5 percent above the 2020 national self-response rate. Pennsauken residents had a self-response rate of 74.3 percent, which exceeds the town's numbers from a decade ago. And including the efforts of Census takers across the state, 99.9 percent of the households in New Jersey were counted.

"We would like to thank everyone who helped promote and facilitate the 2020 Census, given the challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic. You

all persevered and your efforts paid off," said Ken Diaz, chairperson of Pennsauken's Complete Count Committee. "Because of our great volunteers and the response from the Pennsauken com-

munity, residents will get the services and congressional representation that is commensurate with an accurate population count for the next 10 years."

To Give Or Not To Give: Be Sure When Making A Pet A Present

continued from page 16

U.S. every year, 20 percent of them are relinquished because their families don't have enough time for a pet or can't handle behavior issues that come up. If you are considering giving a dog or cat as a gift, you should be 100 percent sure that your gift won't become part of that 20 percent.

Here are some ideas to consider if you would like to give a friend or loved one a pet, or the family decides they would like

to add a pet. Consider giving a pet starter kit as a gift under the tree. Create a basket filled with toys, treats, leashes, and collars; a litter box; a book about the care of the pet; and other necessities for the type of pet that is wanted. Think of it as a "surprise promise." You are saying, "Guess what? We are getting a pet!" You will have all the resources you need to bring the pet home. This makes it a planned gift.

For a friend or relative, you could give

a card with a gift certificate from the local animal shelter that says you will pay the adoption fee for a new pet when they decide the time is right. This way, people can choose the dog or cat they want, one that they feel a bond or connection with.

Pets are great gifts for people; making it less of a surprise dramatically increases these animals' chances that have found their fur-ever home.

Have a very happy holiday season!

The ICEMAN Goeth BY GAVIN ROSSNER



Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

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Wishing All A Happy and Safe Holiday Season!



Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and even supposedly "flushable" wipes (they are not flushable or biodegradable), cannot be flushed down the toilet. The system can accommodate toilet paper, which is made to disintegrate quickly in water, but wipes and other materi-

als, which don't break down as readily, clog pipes. That means sewer backups into the homes of the users or of others, as clogs form down the line. These blockages require jetting of the sewer main to clear.

We are seeing an increase in volume, which is to be expected given the number of people staying in their homes as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

It's to everybody's benefit to

use only toilet paper. Wipes might be able to flush, but that's when the unseen problems begin. While disposable wipes are a convenient and easy-to-use product that serve a variety of helpful purposes, they should be thrown in the trash following use. If manufacturers deem a product unsafe to go down the drain, it will be labeled on the packing. While there is debate over whether wipes labeled as "flushable" are truly safe for

sewers, nonflushable products, like baby wipes, wet wipes and disinfectant wipes, are for your trash can.

In addition to stoppages in the main line, which could cause a backup into homes and businesses, the potential for widespread service interruptions are possible if these nonflushable items reach a lift station and clog a pump. Not to mention the costs associated with removing a pump to clear the clog, which

are borne by our rate payers.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents during the State of Emergency. We have enacted a "No Public Contact" policy for the protection of our neighbors and our employees, but we will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance, call (856) 662-0686.

REMINDER:

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TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE – VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.PSEWER.COM AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON – THERE IS A \$3.95 FEE THE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE CHARGES EACH CUSTOMER PER \$175 TRANSACTION.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



GRAYMATTERS Hope And Grace Are In The World... And So Is Santa

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

You know, there's a whole lotta' things I could write here in my December column to wrap up the year 2020 in 500 words or less. BUT... I ain't goin' there.

I'm gonna' hang my furry red and white jingle bell hat on a brighter, happier, more wholesome, and certainly a lot healthier time for all of Planet Earth's people, as well as Mother Nature herself in 2021.

In fact, I've already started calling it, "20-twenty-onederful." Positive spins can

never start too early or too young, as far as I'm concerned.

Which reminds me of one of the most loving and genuine holiday spins of all time. Way back on the 21st of September in 1897, in the New York Sun newspaper, a columnist named Francis Church and an eight-year-old girl named Virginia O'Hanlon became a huge part of Christmas folklore here in America. And one very special question from Virginia made it all happen: "Is there a Santa Claus?"

Francis Pharellus Church responded that Virginia's friends were wrong. That "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He

exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS."

He went on to write that if Santa wasn't real, there would be an absence of

childlike wonder, poetry, and romance in the world. That "the eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished."

So, there it is: a question from the heart of an eight-year-old girl in New York City 123 years ago. Francis Church responded that hope and grace are the answers. Maybe they're always the an-

swers. Hope to hold us together; and grace to fill in the empty spaces. Sounds about right to me.

Wishing a beautiful, happy, and healthy "20-twenty-onederful" to you, and to all those you love.

Your steadfast friend in the furry red and white jingle bell hat,

~Judith

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Stan has been with the funeral home since 2002. He graduated from Mercer County College in 2003 and received his Associate's Degrees in Business Administration and Funeral Service. Stan married his wife Julie in 2005. In 2008 they welcomed their son, Stanley V, into the family, and in 2014 welcomed their twins, Wesley and Madeline. They are members at Grace Church in Merchantville, where Stan has served for 4 years on the Vestry and volunteers with the food pantry. Stan's wife Julie is also the secretary at Grace Church. He has been both a coach and assistant coach of youth baseball in Delran since 2012 at both the recreational and district levels.



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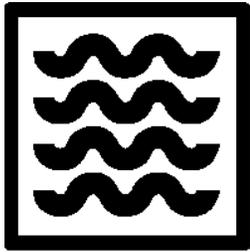
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MPWC WATERLINES

The Commissioners and staff of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission would like to wish you a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!

Please note that we will be closed on December 24 and 25 for Christmas, and on New Year's Day, Friday, January 1.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Keep your meter warm this winter! Water meters are prone to freezing, just like the pipes in your home. Keep the area around your meter warm to prevent cracks and leaks. Meters that are damaged due to freezing temperatures will be replaced at the owner's expense. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen meters and pipes this season:

- Keep the garage door closed (especially if the garage is attached to the house)
- During a deep freeze, keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night; lowering

the thermostat could cause pipes to freeze

- If you're going out of town, drain the water system completely; do this by shutting off the main valve and letting all the faucets in the home run until the system is empty (no more running water comes out of the tap)
- Check for and fill in holes or cracks in exterior walls and foundations to prevent cold air from coming into the walls. And remember to insulate and protect your water meter!

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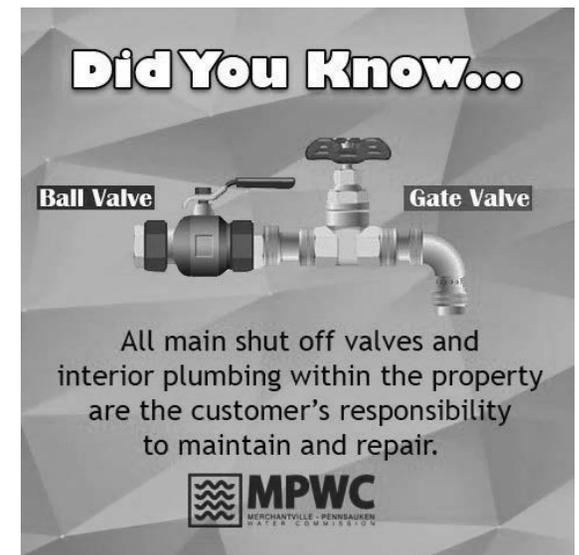
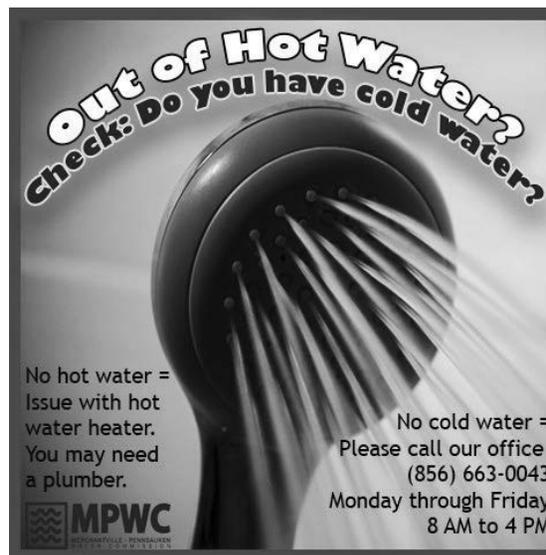
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Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are currently being held via phone conference. For more information, visit our website, MPWC.com

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With the end of the year quickly approaching, remember to submit your enrollment form for your 2021 discount! **Please note that even if you are currently receiving a discount, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount. Now is a good time to collect any information you may need for your application.** Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at MPWC.com. Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.



The MPWC Offices Are OPEN!

MPWC has reopened our lobby at 6751 Westfield Ave. for in-person payments and questions. Lobby hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Face coverings are required for visitors; and we ask that you please maintain social distance by following the markers on the floor.

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GOING GREEN Final Thoughts For The Year, The Next Chapter

By Kathleen Harvey,
AAP Columnist

This year, we are all spending more time at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Use the time to clean and organize your home. Sort basements and attics for things no longer used. There's a Japanese proverb that says to hold things one at a time. If it doesn't bring you joy, let it go. Today, that proverb can be applied by listing things that no longer bring you joy on various selling apps. That spare cash can be put to use toward this year's Christmas celebration. If you are tired of hauling boxes upon boxes of Christmas decorations out of the attic, putting everything up, taking it down, repacking it all, and putting it away to await the next holiday season, now is the time to let some of it go while providing the opportunity for someone else to enjoy it.

For many years, I have savored strolling through antique stores and thrift shops looking for the proverbial treasure. Due to COVID-19, my treasure hunting has pivoted to smartphone apps used at home while quarantined. I am still very passionate about surrounding myself with well made furniture, glass, and jewelry from decades ago. When I think about the time and craftsmanship it took to make something by hand, without contemporary machines used to mass market poorly made items, it makes me want to help preserve

America's past. Pride of workmanship is apparent in these century old pieces and just begs to be preserved.

Plants still make good collections, especially since they exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen, often removing toxins from the air or soil as they breathe. There's still time to plant trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials if the ground hasn't frozen. Newly planted plants will reach out with roots over the winter so they are prepared to put on a show next spring.

If you want to have an extra special Christmas this year, there's nothing like the smell of a real tree. Cut trees can be recycled by the Township. Taking things a step further, get a ball and burlap tree that can be planted after Christmas is over. Dig the hole now, saving time, effort, and freezing temperatures after the holidays. When the tree is ready to go into the ground, soak it thoroughly for a few hours to enable it to absorb water it was probably denied during the holidays.

For the last several years, I have shared my tips and tricks for Going Green. Using less toxic and less expensive substances to help reduce dangerous chemicals leaching into our sewers, yards, waterways, and our bodies was a recurring theme. This column has also been about saving money by reducing, reusing and re-purposing items while keeping them out of landfills.

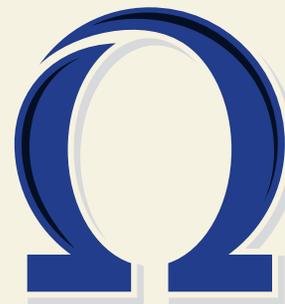
Now, I am ready for my next chapter.

When I moved into my Pennsauken home decades ago, I didn't think that climbing stairs and maintaining my extensive gardens would become a problem. As I have aged, my body is no longer capable of doing what it used to be able to do without a second thought. Digging, pruning, weeding, and mulching, as well

as climbing the stairs in my home, have become new adventures in pain. I have been forced to accept that it's time for a single story ranch home.

So this is my last column of Going Green with All Around Pennsauken. I am deciding what needs to come with me, what still brings me joy. I will hold

onto things that have brought me much joy over the years while living in this town. I will carry the memories of the people who I have met and shared plants and garden advice with while living in this town. I hope my columns have brought you some joy too.



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Honoring Pennsauken's Veterans



Despite the ongoing pandemic, members of VFW Post 1270 and AMVETS Post 101 held a Veterans Day service at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion and Deputy Mayor Marco DiBattista were on hand to recognize and thank these dedicated men and women.

The Christmas Gifts You Give Yourself



By Jolly Old Saint Nicholas,
AKA Santa Claus

If I could give 2020 a lump of coal for every time something went wrong this year, you could heat a home for decade. While it's completely understandable, Mrs. Claus and I were very disappointed that the Pennsauken Holiday Parade was canceled this year. We hope to make it up to you when we stop by for the holiday light display at the Township Municipal Building on Friday, Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m. And later this month, we'll be popping in via Zoom to say hello! You can find out more on the front cover.

We all know that the holidays are going to be very different this year. Heck, do you know how hard it is to get elf-sized masks in bulk? Not as hard as it is to read letters from kids asking whether or not they can leave cookies and milk for me on Christmas Eve or even if I'm coming down their chimney this year. Don't worry kids, I'll be there. Although I may need an extra cookie; Santa occasionally stress eats.

I think it's important to focus on the special things we have this year as opposed to what's missing. The presents under the tree are exciting; they're shiny

and new. But they'll never be worth as much as the Christmas presents you give yourself. The gift of slowing down and seeing what our priorities should have been all along – even if an executive order had a hand in helping with that. The gift of knowing how important your loved ones are to you and you are to them – even if it's six feet apart or through a computer screen. And the gift of realizing that the reason that goodness, kindness, and charity are still in the world is because it starts with you. After all, being on Santa's good list is contagious.

And what's so amazing about these gifts is that you don't have to wait to open them on Christmas Day. You can unwrap them each and every day of the year. There's also no name on those gift tags. You can give these gifts to anyone you want as they need them. If that isn't what the holidays are all about, I don't know what is.

So, on behalf of myself, Mrs. Claus, the elves, Rudolph and all of the reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, as well as Yukon Cornelius – I love that guy – I wish you and yours a joyous holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and healthy start to 2021.

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Coronavirus Numbers Growing At Alarming Rate continued from page 1

halted the use of the state's travel quarantine list and urged New Jersey residents to refrain from unnecessary interstate travel.

"Given the increased risk of spreading COVID-19 for both residents who travel outside the state and for visitors into the state, New Jersey continues to strongly discourage all non-essential interstate travel at this time," said Murphy in an on-line statement. "Travelers and residents returning from any U.S. state or territory beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodging for the CDC recommended period, which is currently 14 days. The Department of Health will issue additional information in the coming days regarding travel precautions. Individuals should continue to abide by the state's current

guidance until a new policy is issued."

Municipal Service Changes Due To COVID-19

In an announcement made on Nov. 23, Pennsauken's municipal government stated that it was taking several proactive steps, "out of an abundance of caution," after a number of employees tested positive for COVID-19 or were quarantined due to potential exposure.

For the foreseeable future, the Township's Municipal Building is currently accessible by appointment only. A list of key departments and their contact information can be found on page 2 of this issue; a more detailed directory can be found at www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/changes-municipal-operations-due-covid-19.

The Pennsauken Free Public Library is currently closed until further notice;

patrons are being asked to not return any items to the Library during the closure. Late fees have been waived for the remainder of 2020. For more information, visit page 29 of this issue.

Pennsauken's Public Safety Departments (Police, Fire, EMS) are still operating at full capacity. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. To contact Pennsauken Police's non-emergency dispatch, call (856) 663-1234.

Community Resources

Pennsauken Township puts out regular updates on the coronavirus outbreak throughout the week via its website, twp.pennsauken.nj.us; Pennsauken Television, Channel 19 on Comcast and Channel 21 on Fios; and its social media channels: Facebook.com/Pennsauken-Twp and @pennsaukentwp for both Twitter and Instagram.

Sheet Metal Contractor Moves To Pennsauken

A Philadelphia-based sheet metal contractor is moving to Pennsauken.

Menzsak and Sons is relocating their operations to 2624 Powell Ave., a 12,000 square foot flex industrial building, located close to Haddonfield Rd. with easy access to Rt. 130 and Rt. 90. Marlton-based World Commercial Real Estate represented owner John Menzszak in the purchase.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Pennsauken's Vitarelli Turns One Hundred Years Old

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On November 14, 2020, a cavalcade of sirens, honking horns, and joyful cheers paraded past the house of Lillian Vitarelli, on the momentous occasion of her 100th birthday. The longtime Pennsauken resident was thrilled with all of the heartfelt well wishes.

"I feel wonderful, only because I've learned so much in my hundred years," said Lillian, as she reflected on reaching the century mark. "I'm not as bitter as I used to be. I've grown wiser. And I love being alive at my age!"

Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion was on hand to read an official proclamation for Lillian in front of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and friends.

"This is one of the great perks of the job. I am just privileged to be here with

all of you and with this extremely special woman, who, and I'm not just saying this, doesn't look 100 years old at all," said Killion. "I understand your husband was 99; and you're 100. Whatever genes are going on in this family here, I wish I had a little bit of that."

The proclamation highlighted Lillian's century of living: being born on November 14, 1920 and growing up in South Camden; getting her cosmetology license at beauty school; meeting John Vitarelli in 1939 at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City and marrying him two years later; giving birth to Lucielle, Carole, and John; moving to Pennsauken and dedicating her love and attention to her family; and opening a beauty salon along Westfield Ave., where Macaro's Catering Hall stands today, after her children

were grown with lives of their own. Married to her soul mate for 76 years, Lillian's husband passed away in 2017 at the age of 99. But her love of life and of her family has never been stronger.

"My children and my husband have been very important to me; but first of all, God," said Lillian.

When asked about her secret to reaching 100 years of age, Lillian attributed it to simple living, hard work, never giving up, and embracing the joy of being alive.

"I enjoy being alive; I love people; I love God. And I won't give up until I die," explained Lillian.

And when asked about her plans for her 101st and 102nd birthday, she looked forward to celebrating with her loved



Mayor Tim Killion reads a proclamation to Pennsauken resident Lillian Vitarelli on her 100th birthday.

ones right here in Pennsauken.

"The community is friendly. I love everything about Pennsauken. I've been

here 65 years and wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Pennsauken's Lopez Elected Vice Commander of Regional Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 18

During a Change of Watch Zoom meeting of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on Nov. 16, Pennsauken resident Jose Lopez was sworn in as Vice Commander, Division 18. The oath of office was administered by Division Commandant Joe Giannastasio and Commander Victoria Taylor, United States Coast Guard.

"Even during difficult times, I'm proud



Lopez

to say the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey will be more than ready for the 2021 boating season," said Vice Commander Lopez.

Lopez is deeply familiar with the waters of the Delaware River, serving on tugboats, passenger vessels, and Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels. Specializing in night time operations, Lopez commands Auxiliary patrols as coxswain and instructor.

Vice Commander Lopez summed it

up. "Even during the pandemic, much of our training has continued on-line. Our Auxiliarists have sharpened their skills in radio communications, budget planning, watch standing, recruiting and much more. We're really living up to the Coast Guard motto: Semper Paratus, Always Ready!"

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FOODADVENTURES Chen's Garden Reopens With New Management, Menu

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist and Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

We recently visited Chen's Garden on Union Ave., which has reopened under new management. Both of us have been going there for years and wanted to see how things have changed. We weren't disappointed.

Rachael ordered moo shu pork, broccoli in hot pepper chili sauce, the mixed veggie platter, chicken and broccoli, and chicken in garlic sauce. Because she ordered over \$40 worth of food, she got a free General Tso's chicken, one of the new specials being offered for their grand opening. The broccoli in hot pepper chili sauce wasn't the hottest dish she ever ordered, but the heat and the flavor were nice. The broccoli was also the perfect level of crunchy. It was the same with the non-spicy mixed veggie platter. All of the meat centered dishes

were well flavored.

On his trip, Frank also ordered moo shu pork, as well as steamed chicken dumplings; Chinese pizza; and spring rolls. He went back a second time to try the shrimp pad Thai, one of the many new items on the menu. He was impressed by the additional offerings to choose from and particularly with how fresh everything tasted. Sometimes with Chinese food, you run the risk of having a heavier meal. That wasn't the case here.

We're really happy to say that this place looks to be experiencing a resurgence. The new staff seems enthusiastic about their new venture and eager to get the word out about the new Chen's Garden. When we went in to get our orders there was a decent line of people, saying that they really enjoyed the food there so far. For all the Food Adventure readers out there, new life has taken breath

at Chen's Garden; now is the perfect time to take a taste for yourself. When you go, maybe try something new and always enjoy your Food Adventures.

Chen's Garden is located at 3016

Union Ave., in the Meadowbrook Shopping Center. They offer Cantonese, Szechuan, Hunan, and Thai Cuisine. Hours of operation are Tuesday to Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday

and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 9:30 p.m. To order, call (856) 665-8089 or (856) 665-0006. You can also order online at ChensGardenNJ.com.

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Pennsauken EMS Chief Coyle Retires After Forty-Two Years

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

As of this month, Chief Mike Coyle has officially retired as head of Pennsauken's Emergency Medical Services. Coyle first joined the town's First Aid Squad in 1978 as a volunteer, advancing to the rank of captain in 1984, and was then named chief of Pennsauken's new EMS in 1995. He reflected on 42 years of dedicated service to the Township.

"There was a lot of good and a lot of bad. But most of all, it was a lot of change," explained Coyle. "We've seen a wide variety of change, all for the good. From transferring the sick and injured to giving out albuterol and aspirin, as well

as using EpiPens and giving continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) instead of oxygen when it applies; we've been very progressive in our time here, all for the betterment of residents."

Last month, Township officials, representatives of the Pennsauken Fire Department, and members of Pennsauken's EMS surprised Chief Mike Coyle with a special socially distant celebration in honor of his retirement.

"I've known [Chief Coyle] my entire adult life. He's been very good to me. He's been good to a lot of people here," said EMT Todd Watkins. "I hate to see him go, but I definitely wish him well in

this next chapter."

"I want to say thanks to Chief Coyle. It's been an honor to work with you over the last almost 30 years. I'm grateful for the opportunities you gave me to grow here," added Sandi White, EMS supervisor. "We're grateful to you for your leadership and your kindness and your commitment to this town and to this organization. We appreciate you."

Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion read a proclamation in recognition of Chief Coyle's 42 years of faithful service.

"I, along with the members of Township Committee, honor Chief Mike Coyle, on a long and successful career at the helm of Pennsauken Emergency Medical Services. We recognize your commitment to this community and the impact you have made," said Killion. "We thank the Chief for his service and dedication. We wish you a much de-



Township officials, representatives of the Pennsauken Fire Department, and members of Pennsauken's EMS surprised Chief Mike Coyle with a special socially distant celebration in honor of his retirement.

served retirement, filled with happiness and good health. Congratulations."

"I've enjoyed my time, but my time has come," said Coyle. "It's not just about the journey; it's about the stops along the

way, the people I've met. I've met thousands of great people. That's what I'll miss about all this. I've had a great group of EMTs my entire career and there's a great crew here."



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Giving Thanks By Helping Those In Need

Right before Thanksgiving, Karen Giambone from Mister Softee in Pennsauken donated food in time to help those in need. Thank you to Karen, as well as Delair Elementary School, who was able to use the donation to assist four local families!

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Township Works To Bring Some Holiday Joy To Residents

continued from page 1

municipal parking lot and enjoy a fun and entertaining light display.”

Pennsauken's tree lighting will be completely virtual; residents will not be able to attend in person, but can view a livestream of the event via the Township's page on Facebook. However, residents can drive through a light display at the Municipal Building from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Children who want their letters to Santa delivered to the North Pole can drop them off that evening into a special mailbox set up on site. Mr. Claus will read some of these notes in a special video that will be shared later in the

month on Pennsauken Television's YouTube channel and via social media.

The Township will also be accepting new, unwrapped toys during that time for the annual Angel Tree program, which helps local families in need during the holidays.

Virtual Breakfast With Santa

On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m., children at their breakfast tables can eat with Santa and Mrs. Claus via Zoom. Families are asked to register in advance online via twp.pennsauken.nj.us; those that do so will receive a confirmation email prior to the event with details on

how to log into the virtual breakfast.

Pennsauken Fire Department's "Operation Santa"

Starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, Santa Claus, escorted by the Pennsauken Township Fire Department, will visit every neighborhood in Pennsauken in a single day. Residents are asked to listen for the sirens and air horns from the Fire Department apparatus as Santa is driven around town.

Virtual "Cookies And Milk" With Santa

Pennsauken Township and the Penn-

sauken Free Public Library are hosting "Cookies and Milk" with Santa. Families can get their own cookies and milk ready and login via Zoom to hear Saint Nick read a story and then interact with children during the online event. Storytime sessions are scheduled for Dec. 14, 15, and 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Spaces are limited and registration is required; to do so, visit the Township's website at twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Ask Santa Anything

On Friday, Dec. 18, Santa will be host-

ing a Facebook Live video via the Pennsauken Free Public Library. By visiting [Facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary) at 6:30 p.m., participants will be able to ask Santa Claus a variety of questions. There will also be virtual sing-alongs during the event, courtesy of Miss Sabrina.

For the latest news on COVID-19, visit AllAroundPennsauken.com

Angel Tree Program More Important Than Ever

continued from page 1

into today's Angel Tree Program, which hopes to help dozens of families this year.

"Pennsauken residents are known for their generosity, ready to help their neighbors in need however they can," added Mayor Tim Killion. "We ask those residents who have the means to participate in this year's Angel Tree Program. Even a small donation can go a long way to making the holidays special for families that are facing hardships due to the coronavirus."

How Residents Can Help

Individuals can purchase a new, unwrapped toy and leave it at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, Route 130 and Merchantville Avenue, during normal business hours now through 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

The Township, with support from the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (PMAC) and the Pennsauken Lions Club, are hosting two

drive-up toy donation events. The first drop off will be in conjunction with Pennsauken's Holiday Light Display, held on Friday, Dec. 4, from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. The second will be on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., once again at the Municipal Building.

For more information, or to volunteer for the Angel Tree Program, call (856) 665-1000, ext. 151 or e-mail emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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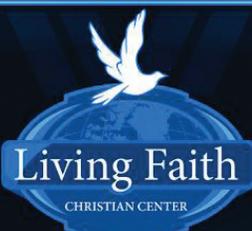
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inBooks

PENNSAUKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pennsauken Library Temporarily Closed

Due to members of our staff testing positive for the COVID-19 virus, the Pennsauken Free Public Library will be closed until further notice. The Library is taking every precaution, including extensive cleaning and quarantining exposed staff, to keep both staff and our patrons safe.

Please do not attempt to return any items to the Library during the closure. No

staff will be on site, and no in-person services will be available during this time. The Pennsauken Free Public Library continues to be fine free until the end of 2020.

Please check the Library's Facebook page – [Facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary) – for updates as they become available. If you have any questions, please contact director@pennsaukenlibrary.org.

December Virtual Library Events

www.facebook.com/pennsaukenlibrary www.instagram.com/pennsaukenlibrary

Programs For Children & Families

Due to copyright compliance requests from publishers, all storytimes are now only viewable live, on Facebook and Instagram.

- **Preschool Storytime** – Tuesdays, Dec. 8, 15, 22, & 30; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina every Tuesday morning on the Pennsauken Library's Facebook and Instagram for an at-home Preschool Storytime! Little ones of all ages are invited to read and stretch along with us. For toddlers, early elementary students.
- **Wee Readers** – Friday, Dec. 18; 11:00 a.m. A video will be posted once a month, with minor changes. We encourage weekly repetition of the video to help baby master the songs, movements, and stories, similar to the song and story repetition featured at the in-person program. A virtual program with short books, rhymes, songs, and movement, aimed at developing baby's motor, sensory and social skills! For infants, crawlers and walkers; ages 2 and under.

Adult Services

- **Ask-A-Librarian Live Online** – Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday's at 10:00 a.m.; Saturday's at 11:00 a.m.

Have a question? Connect one-on-one with a librarian online. To participate, you must register ahead of time for a session with a librarian.

– Register for Tuesdays:

<https://tinyurl.com/AALLOTues>

– Register for Thursday:

<https://tinyurl.com/AALLOThurs>

– Register for Saturdays:

<https://tinyurl.com/AALLOSat>

Can't chat online? No problem. Call the Library anytime at (856) 665-5959 and leave a message. A member of the Library staff will return your phone call. Please dial ext. 4 for Reference or ext. 5 for Youth Services.

- **Free Wi-Fi Access** – No internet access at home? Pennsauken Free Public Library has you covered! The Library's free-to-all Wi-Fi extends beyond the building and out into the shared Library/Township Building parking lot. You are not required to have a library card in order to use the Wi-Fi, but you do need your own device. All information needed to connect to the "PennLib" Wi-Fi network, including the password, which is posted on the Library's front doors. Please remember to practice social distancing and remain six feet apart from other patrons who may also be using the Library's Wi-Fi.

FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends Of The Library Sponsor Virtual Events

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

If a nice healthy dose of relaxation sounds good to anyone right about now, then the Friends of the Pennsauken Library have just the ticket. We're offering four different virtual Friday sessions to help everyone unwind after a hectic year that isn't over yet... and doesn't seem likely to calm down anytime soon.

On Dec. 4 and 11, breathing/relaxation/meditation instructor Michele Carlino plans to explore a variety of techniques to help participants handle stress constructively. She'll go over deep breathing exercises that help in the relaxation process by slowing down the

heart and calming the brain. Participants will also get to practice meditation techniques to help them focus on what is important to them and learn to shut out what isn't. The two December classes will be followed by two on Jan. 8 and 15, with additional techniques to learn and practice. All sessions will be recorded at 10:00 a.m.

Register for these classes by completing and submitting the form at <https://bit.ly/3cs4hqO>. You'll receive a confirmation email, along with a direct link to the classes. Please note that the confirmation will say "Chair Yoga," but just ignore that. The classes that will be held are what you see listed above. To keep things as uncom-

plicated as possible, we've used the same link for all our virtual wellness classes.

An Update On Lemonade 4 Change

As of Nov. 6, we reached 86 percent of our goal of \$4,500 to purchase books on diversity to add to the Pennsauken Free Public Library's collection. We hope to hit that goal by the end of the year; so if you haven't already contributed to the Lemonade 4 Change, you can still send a check to Friends of the Pennsauken Library, 5605 Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, N.J. 08110, or bring it to the library during regular operating hours. All books purchased with funds from this initiative will be specially tagged.

Virtual Holiday Programming

The Library has a bunch of great programs coming up for the most wonderful time of the year! We'll post details for each one on our Facebook page, so you don't miss a thing. Here's what you can

look forward to: Cookies and Milk with Santa Claus via Zoom! A gingerbread man drawing and decorating contest! Cozy cocoa storytime featuring "Twas' the Night Before Christmas" and "The

Polar Express!" A live Christmas carols sing-along in Zoom! And holiday stories from around the world.

Be sure to check [Facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenLibrary) for details!

Temple Lutheran Provides Meals For Thanksgiving

On Nov. 21, Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken helped make sure that over 150 families in need received a Thanksgiving meal. Mayor Tim Killion and Township Committeewoman Betsy McBride joined the church's volunteers for the food distribution.



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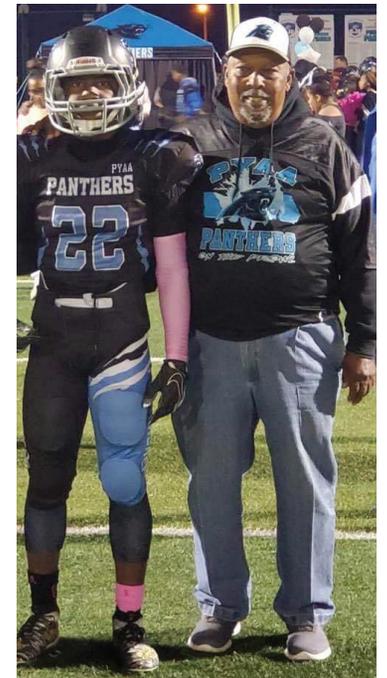
On Saturday Nov. 7, after a 14-day quarantine and the passing of a beloved mentor, Coach Chad Pierce, Pennsauken High School's football team took to the field looking for some type of normalcy. They wasted no time with a 48-7 win against Bishop Eustace, their first of the season.

Pennsauken's defense, led by seniors Zaire Pitts and Sekhi Brown, smothered the Eustace offense, holding them to only five first downs in the entire first half. The entire defense played inspired and aggressive football. The offense, not to be left out, put up 40 points in the first half. Quarterback Tru Styles threw three first half touchdown passes. Running back Ozmere Jones ran for two scores, while Ejani Shakir caught two touchdown passes and returned a 78-yard punt for a touchdown. As Shakir fielded the punt and took off, the celebration on the sideline was electric. For the first time in weeks, the boys were able to smile and truly enjoy themselves. The victory was just part of the healing process; the coaches were emotional all night as well. Coach Pierce had been an integral member of the coaching staff for more than 14 years.

"High school sports are so much more than just playing for a win. It is about building relationships and experiencing life together," said Coach Clinton Tabb. "Don't get me wrong, the win feels great tonight, but the only way we were able to win tonight is because we have stuck together through all the adversity we have faced this year. These young men have faced a lot of loss, but I keep telling them that we can and we will get through it all - together."

PYAA SPORTS

PYAA Panthers Remember Jennings Sr.



The PYAA Panthers send their condolences to the Jennings family on the passing of James Jennings, Sr. A staple on the sideline, his presence will truly be missed.

PYAA Basketball Season Canceled

The difficult decision has been made to cancel this year's basketball season because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Please visit PYAA.net for updates as they become available.

Local Veterans Guests Of Country Club



On Veterans Day, the Pennsauken Country Club thanked active and retired military personnel with a free round of golf. Pictured here, from left to right: Fred Shields, U.S. Navy, a Vietnam War Veteran ('66 to '70) who served on the USS Lofberg DD-759; Ed Berger, U.S. Navy, who served on the USS Forrestal (CV-59); and Richie Hilton, U.S. Army, Vietnam War Veteran ('66 to '68).

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